Deteriorating condition of Government Hospitals

†3907. PROF. R. B. S. VARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of most of Government hospitals of the country is deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps for improvement therein keeping in view the deplorable condition of all these hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Health being a State subject, it is for the respective State Government to ensure that adequate facilities are available in the Government Hospitals under them. However adequate facilities are available in Central Government Hospitals. Improvement in the medical services in these hospitals is a continous process and the same is undertaken as per the need within the available financial resources.

Distribution of iron tablets among pregnant women

3908. SHRI R. P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of distribution of iron tablets among pregnant women having iron-deficiency;

(b) whether Government are considering distribution of fortified *atta* in place of wheat through the Public Distribution System since anaemia is a more common ailment; and

(c) if not, the impediments that are coming in the way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is a physiological deficiency of iron during pregnancy leading to anaemia, if iron is not supplemented. Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, iron and folic acid tablets are supplied to all sub-centres in the country for prophylaxis and treatment of anaemia among pregnant women. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.